

ABSTRACT

A handheld ultraviolet germicidal device is used for the treatment of nail fungus. A UV lamp is protected by a transmissive quartz cover. The UV lamp may include a battery-powered ballast circuitry, and may incorporate a timing circuit. A continuity sensor circuit may also be used to ensure that the device is used only by adults. A method can be used, where the UV lamp is directed at an infected human nail, and where the lamp is powered on only after the continuity sensor circuit determines that the user is likely an adult.